



TOP OF THE HILL



Volume 15

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Camp Laney Reflections

Conquering Fears: The Ropes Course

By Aaron Kaplan

"Clank, clank!" The bell rings in the morning to wake us all up. Although hesitant to wake up, everyone finds his way to the dining hall. A satisfying breakfast started us off before we head to the ropes course, where we spend the day rotating through six high elements. Once we were divided into groups, we spread out to conquer each element in turn. The elements were the Pamper Pole, the Bonzai, the Wall, the Traversing Ropes, the Zip Line, and the ultimate element, the Kamikaze. All the elements offered new challenges and ways to conquer fears. Many of us had never done a ropes course

before and were nervous.

Each element is unique in its own way. The Pamper Pole starts with a frightening climb up a wobbling pole, ending with a jump off the platform at the top to reach for a trapeze swing. The Bonzai consists of a tight-wire walk and a swing at the end. The Rock Wall and Traversing Ropes proved extreme challenges as we made our ways upside down up a wall and walked across a swinging wire with only ropes to hold onto. The Zip Line made our dreams of flying become a reality. Last was the Kamikaze, which was awesome (awe-inspiring). A climb up a rope wall, a walk across wobbling planks, and a stomach turning drop into a swing from over thirty feet in the air were unbelievable. Throughout all of the elements, classmates cheered each other along. On the ropes course,

we had to trust each other and begin to form true friendships. At the end of the second day, many had conquered their fears or at least lived up to them, learned to trust, and felt accomplished.



Kaden Freeman

Battle Ball

By Kang Huh

After dinner, sometime near 6:30 PM: All of the campers walked hurriedly out of the cafeteria toward the gym at Camp Laney with only one thought in their heads: "It's Battle Ball time." Once everyone was seated, Mr. Thurmond separated us into teams. After he explained the rules, the intense, competitive game commenced. People on both sides rushed for the balls at the center like raving pit-bulls. Those who were unfortunate enough to not get a ball were pummeled by the opponents.

The gym had officially turned into a battlefield; there were projectiles of foam flying everywhere, and everyone felt a temporary hatred for his opponent. It was war! After the intense madness of the balls being "shot" back and forth, the team led by Cabin 7 fell into the hands of the merciless team led by Cabin 8. A truly memorable game occurred when John Tipps was the last man standing against five people; he used his survival strategies to pull through and make the game one-on-one. After long rallies of thrown balls, the game ended when Tipps hit the other man. His team stormed the court, for the seemingly impossible victory they

wished for had come true. After many other games, but none as exciting, we finally retired to our cabins.



John Tipps during
the "amazing game"

CAMP LANEY

Food and Friends

By Nathan Sharp

The high ropes, the battleball, the bus ride; all were good, but the best part of Laney was food. The bell would ring and all 104 of us would come running, hungry and ready to eat. As we walked inside (hats off, of course), we were greeted by the delicious aroma of the gourmet camp food. There was everything from cheeseburgers to fried chicken; I must applaud the kitchen ladies for doing such a wonderful job. Food was not the only thing in the mess hall. There were rules: whoever finished off a drink had to go get another jug, and we had to clean our table before we could leave. But most important

were the good times in the mess hall. It was a time to talk, get to know people, and to eat delicious food with friends

and future friends. I give the overall experience five gold stars.



The Boat Race

By Nicholas Heim

What a great way to end the trip to Camp Laney! The Boat Race was the final activity that the 7th grade class participated in on the trip. When we went into the gym, each cabin was given supplies to build a boat. These tools included cardboard pieces, plastic covering rolls, tape, and a Sharpie marker. Using only these items, each cabin had to build a boat with a unique design. After much discussion,

each cabin got to work on the boats, and every boat was very interesting. From box boats, to "canoes," to rafts, and to scraps, everyone had a great time working together to create the boats. After one hour and fifteen minutes, the cabins each brought their boats to the river, where the competition would be held. Once the boats had arrived, these simple instructions were given: Try to get across the river and back as many times as you can without your boat sinking. Most boats didn't make it five yards, but Cabin 10 was able to get their boat across the river and back three times. Cabin 10 was the winner! Although Cabin 10 won, the ultimate goal was for everyone to learn to work together. Camp Laney was a wonderful experience, and the Boat Race was a perfect ending to a fun trip.



The talented boat builders of Cabin 10



The Launch

CAMP LANEY



Davis Luster shows off his skills in the group games.



Imitations of the Moosilauke Man?



*Geoffrey Holland, Luke Bullock, T.J. Jefferson,
Parks Ball, and Sam Bellet*



Ethan Rudolph feels confident his boat is sea-worthy.



Nicholas Heim in the winning boat



*Haynes Young just "hangin around"
after mastering the Kamikaze*



*Ryan Caldwell flying through
the air on the Kamikaze*



Tyler Sherman

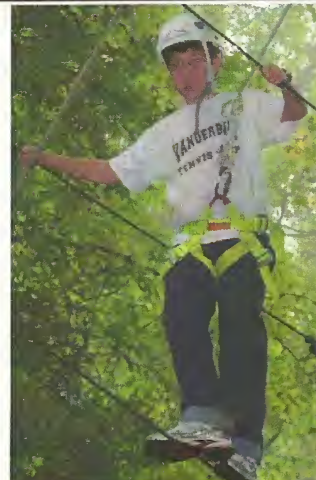
CAMP LANEY



D.J. promised Mr. Cooper he would lick the rope!



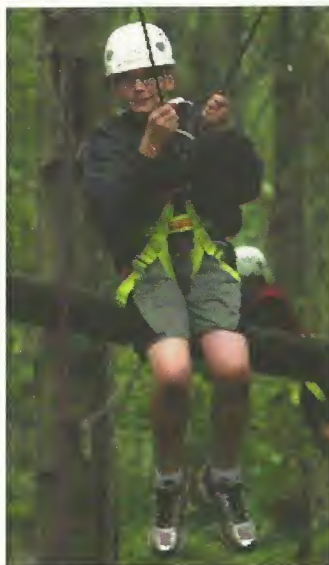
Harry Stewart has serious doubts about his boat.



Aaron Kaplan conquers his fears.



Despite being injured, Charles completed all of the elements!



Ross Rochford on the Kamikaze



Derrick Tucker gives Bill Leftwich a hand at the climbing wall.



Victory smiles all around. They survived the Kamikaze!



Sam Carey: "Gosh, I hope this guy knows what he is doing."

WELCOME

New Eighth Graders



Justin Shafer

Previous School: St Henry's
Favorite thing about MBA: The big TV in the lunchroom
Sports you play: Track and basketball
Hobbies: Music, specifically guitar, and art



Wes Duke

Previous School: CPA
Favorite thing about MBA: The long breaks and sports
Sports you play: Soccer and swimming
Hobbies: Playing soccer and hanging with friends



Jordan Roundtree

Previous School: Friendship Christian
Favorite thing about MBA: The athletics
Sports you play: Football, basketball, and baseball
Hobbies: Playing sports



Travonte Easley

Previous School: Meigs Magnet
Favorite thing about MBA: The variety of things to do
Sports you play: Football, basketball, and baseball
Hobbies: Playing video games and having fun



Nick Obremskey

Previous School: J.T. Moore
Favorite thing about MBA: The long breaks
Sports you play: Soccer and swimming
Hobbies: Practicing soccer



Ryan Carr

Previous School: Harding Academy
Favorite thing about MBA: The sports are awesome!
Sports you play: Football and baseball
Hobbies: Playing outside

*Students were interviewed
by Sam Weien*

Let the 7th grade begin!

*Friends, fun, and
food- the first week
of school!*



7th Grade Projects



Joseph Coakley and Owen Powell



*George Hunt's diorama is
for his eyes only!*



The inside of George's project



Matt Miccioli



William Richardson



Garrett Fuller and Si Deane



Kirkland Mawae



Jess Darnell, Bill Leftwich, and Jacob Lothers



*Harry Stewart, Hank Thomas,
and Stephen Sullivan*

ON THE HILL

A Tribute to Coach Lujan

By Jordan Pugh

Coach Lujan, Head Coach of the MBA rifle team, has stepped down as head coach but will continue teaching the 7th grade BB gunners. Coach Lujan has been a driving force for the rifle team and will be sorely missed. He led the MBA rifle team to twelve consecutive state championships (the most consecutive state championships attained by any sport at MBA) in his remarkable career. Also, Coach Lujan organized the MBA Rifle Classic, the largest and most important rifle meet in the U.S., drawing teams from as far as Alaska! When Coach Lujan first came to MBA in 1991, he single-

handedly started the current Air Rifle team that we have today. (MBA shot small bore at the old Vanderbilt range.) After many long months, he built up one of the most successful coaching staffs in the Air Rifle division. Coach Lujan's interest in shooting has helped propel the MBA rifle team to many victories. His interest started when he joined the National Guard. He was very dedicated to the sport and worked tirelessly to improve at it. Coach Lujan began shooting competitively in the Air National Guard. Later, he was asked



Coach Lujan with Jordan Pugh

to develop air rifle as a competitive program for the Army National Guard. His involvement with the program led to an even more profound interest in riflery, resulting in his creating a program where children could learn the sport. Coach Lujan steadily became an important member of the shooting world. He even helped with the 1996 Olympics as support staff. Coach Lujan is married and has two children. His son, Nate, is a graduate of MBA.



The Many Jerseys of Davis Lovvorn

*On Jersey Day,
Davis wore a
different jersey
each class
period.*



SPIRIT WEEK

Microbes Show Their Spirit

By Bradley Bennett

At Montgomery Bell Academy, Spirit Week set the stage for a wonderful Homecoming. From September 28 to October 2, students were invited to take a break from the dress code to show their support and spirit for the school. Every day had a different theme. The week began with Pink Day. It was very different sight driving up and seeing a wall of pink in the Massey Courtyard.

Tuesday was designated Jersey Day. Everyone wore a jersey from his favorite team or player. These ranged from football to soccer to baseball.

Wednesday was Pajama Day. Waking up and putting on something you would wear to go to sleep was a little weird for some students. The day was also a lot of fun because the bake sale began. The bake sale was an instant success, giving students a tasty treat during breaks.

Because Thursday was the first day of October, it was designated as Halloween day. Students were allowed to wear their costumes.

After four fun-filled days of costumes, Spirit Week ended with Big Red Day. All the microbes wore red to show their spirit and support. Everyone was excited and ready for homecoming. This excitement was only heightened by the half-day and pep rally.

The spaghetti supper was a complete success. The day ended

with a well-played game against Battle Ground Academy that resulted in a tough loss for the Big Red.

Overall, Spirit Week was a lot of fun. Eighth-grader Clark Hooks commented: "I feel like the whole week was a break from regular school, and it was pretty cool." This week gives students a chance to mix it up from everyday routine. Spirit week gets students energized for Homecoming and is fun at the same time.



Did Jack have a Red Bull for breakfast?



The Bell Ringer must be really interesting.



Ben: "What to be? Little Orphan Annie or a vampire?"



One can show spirit AND be a good student.

SPIRIT WEEK



Ben gives "Pink Day" the thumbs up!

*MBA supports
National Breast
Cancer Awareness
month by wearing
pink.*



Ms. Vaughan's advisory shows off their team pride.



*Frustrated at the Vols' inability to beat Auburn,
Alex picks on Ben and Keith.*



Sam leaps into his classmates' arms in hopes of a quick nap.



Harry is ready to jump into bed!

SPIRIT WEEK



There is no joking around when it comes to Spirit Week!



If you need a pen for class, go see Parks.



Who says there's no candy in class?

*Give
me your
tired, your
poor, your
huddled
masses,
and I will
give them
Big Red
Spirit!*



Don't mess with the Big Red!



Howdy Ma'am



Barclay's Big Red Advisory

BOYS OF SUMMER

Summer Baseball Trip

By Davis Lovvorn

For a small group of 8th and 9th graders, the year-long wait was over. The summer baseball trip was finally here! On July 24, about thirty 8th and 9th graders loaded three vans and departed Nashville for the most amazing baseball experience a teenager could ever imagine. That night, the fanatics arrived in Huntsville to watch a game between the Huntsville Stars and the Carolina Mudcats. The Stars had the most loyal fans; however, they were not the loudest because they had a smaller stadium. This game was close throughout, but the Mudcats pulled away with a go-ahead homerun, winning 7-5. Afterwards, we drove to the Hyatt Place in Birmingham for a good night's sleep (or not).

Late the following morning, Mr. Thurmond finally roused the sleep-deprived boys so we could visit historic Rickwood Field, home of the old Birmingham Barons, and the country's oldest baseball stadium. After a short drive, we arrived right in the middle of a high school game, but this did not hold us back. We were able to tour the bleachers and the outside of the field. The old lights were still in the stadium. They jutted into the outfield; it was really weird. I found time to take a private walk next to the old concrete fence, which stretched out to over 470 feet! Afterwards, we played a sandlot game and took a swim. We went to the Birmingham Barons game later that night. I believe they had the second nicest stadium and the second best fans. After a high-quality game and collecting Mary Milton baseball cards, the Barons beat the Montgomery Biscuits 4-1.

On the 26th, we were forced out of our beds at around noon, and we headed out to Mobile, Alabama and the La Quinta Inn. That day was a lazy day. We ended up going to Hooters that night (promising the chaperones we would behave

appropriately). Later that night, we had a choice of two movies: *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* and *Transformers 2*. I saw the new *Harry Potter*, which was amazing. The people who watched *Transformers* seemed to be disappointed because there apparently was a lack of Megan Fox.

The next day was one of my favorites. I am a beach bum, so I was thrilled to know that we were heading to a beautiful beach near Mobile. It was a hot, cloudless day, so I was content to sit motionless in the water. A few of us, myself included, tried to bodysurf, but we found that the waves were less than adequate. At about 2 PM, the chaperones had a hard time pulling us out of the water. Later that night, we ventured to the stadium of the Mobile BayBears to watch them take on the Tennessee Smokies, coached by hall-of-famer Ryne Sandberg. The BayBears got the award for the worst fans with only about 150 in attendance! The Smokies had control of the game from the beginning, winning 8-2.

Again, the chaperones dragged us out of bed very early to depart for Montgomery, Alabama. We arrived in the afternoon at the nicest hotel by far, the Embassy Suites. We then proceeded to the nearby gift shop of the Montgomery Biscuits and spent nearly all our money. However, that night, the game was rained out, so we headed out to a barbecue restaurant, which, I believe,

had the best ribs ever. We then went to a bowling alley. My group was the only one to use gutter guards. It was a long day, and we were glad to have a fancy hotel in which we could retire.

On the 29th, we departed for Atlanta and checked into the La Quinta Inn. After a fairly uneventful afternoon, we went to the Gwinett Braves game and had a catered picnic. The G-Braves had the nicest stadium and the best fans. There was a bounce house/fight square in the stadium, where we all fought each other for no reason. Thankfully, no one got hurt. The G-Braves dominated the Rochester Red Wings, winning 4-1.

The next day was very rainy. Six Flags was rained out for us, so we traveled to the ESPN Zone, where we got to play hours worth of games. Some used their cards way too early and were forced to watch others have fun either bowling, deer-hunting, NASCAR racing, or horse racing. That night, we went to see the G-Braves play the Red Wings again. There was a rain delay in the 7th inning, so we left. The Braves ended up winning 2-1.

On the final day, we were sad to return home, but everyone was tired, so it was about time. So 7th graders, you really need to go on this trip; I definitely want to go again next year.



Baseball junkies at the historic Rickwood Field in Birmingham

"This I Believe"

Over the summer, the all-school read was This I Believe. The essays in the book expressed the writers' deep beliefs and opinions on life. This year, the eighth grade had to write some of their own beliefs. The seventh grade will be writing essays in January. We will have a tradition this year of having two "This I Believe" essays in each issue. You will get to hear what your friends and teachers truly believe.

Fairness

By Sam Smith

I believe in fairness. The definition of fairness in *Merriam Webster's Dictionary* is, "conforming with the established rules." The meaning of fairness does not vary. A person knows deep down if they are not being fair. I have been shown fairness throughout my life.

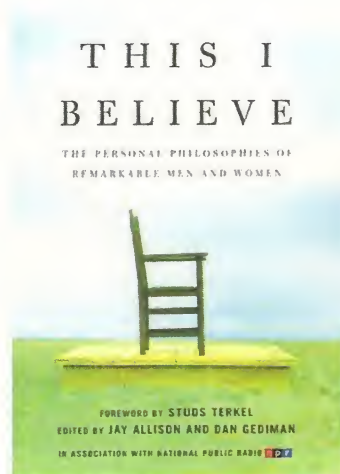
I have been shown fairness through experiences with my teachers. In my mind, I just want a teacher who will treat the dumbest and the smartest kid in the class the same. There have been some teachers who I have disliked on and off throughout the year, but when I look back on the year, they gain my respect for being fair. I have also experienced fairness when working in class. There are so many opportunities to do the wrong thing and get answers from someone else. Maybe it would seem advantageous at the time, but the repercussions would be severe. Also, it is unfair to the person who does the work for someone else just to get the solutions. In the end a person who does not cheat their way through school will gain respect from their peers.

A final example of where I have been shown fairness is in athletics. Games can get out of hand, and fouls will or will not be called, but the team that comes out victorious is usually the one who keeps their head. Also, winning does not feel half as good if your team gets away with fouls and penalties. For example, my soccer team was in the state tournament a

couple of years ago. We were in the championship playing against a team we beat handily earlier in the tournament. It turns out, though, that we lost the championship two to one. I was upset to lose the championship, but my team did not feel like it got ripped off. It was a good feeling. I have seen fairness through experiences in sports and in the classroom.

There are multiple reasons why I try my best to be fair. The most important, though, is because of my conscience; I tend to worry some. If I have been unfair in some way, I feel it. Fairness is one of my top beliefs because people remember more about an instance of cheating rather than when a person did the right thing. For example, I can give the names of every boy who was expelled from MBA last year. They are probably great guys, but unfortunately, I remember them for cheating.

I always want to try my best to be fair.



This I Believe

By Will Glover

Two years ago, my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer. As you can imagine, this was a very rough time for me and my family. It was a time to have courage, a time to persevere, and most importantly, a time to hold onto faith. Faith is "having confidence or trust in a person or thing" or "a belief in anything, as a code of ethics or standard of merit." Faith is a quality that we all strive for, whether it is a faith in religion or having faith in a person. I had faith that my mom, the doctors, and the medicine could beat the cancer, and they did. Things will always work out if you believe.

My mom's diagnosis was a life-altering experience, not just for my mom, but for me and my family as well. When things are not going so great, people tend to reflect on life, such as recalling life experiences that shape them as a person. Being only twelve, I did not have many life experiences to reflect upon, but I still had my faith.

Faith is something that builds over time. It is something that I will never fully understand, but something I will always have. Faith is the key to all success, which is why it is worth fighting for. Have faith in your beliefs, in people, but most importantly, you must always have faith in yourself. I believe in faith.

FEATURES

Serializing novels was a common practice in the 19th century, and many writers first published their work in newspapers and magazines, including Charles Dickens, Leo Tolstoy and Henry James. This year, the editors of the paper have decided to serial a short story. This story will continue in each issue until its conclusion in our final issue in May. Enjoy!

Episode I: The Menacing Figure

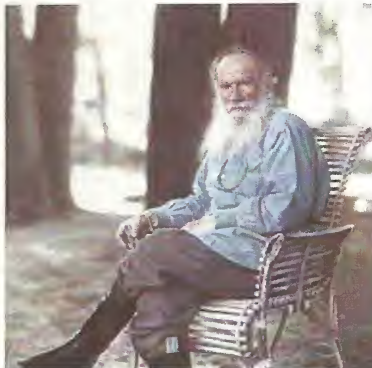
By Fletcher Wolfe

The hallways are deserted, except for me of course. The quick passer-by wouldn't catch sight of the shadow that sits in the corner of the upstairs Massey hallway. Suddenly, the creak of the door that leads from the staircase to the beginning of the hallway creeps open. The sound snaps me out of my early morning daze. Upon realizing that the sound is from the door, I assume it is created by the teacher who usually gets to his classroom quite early in the morning. However, footsteps begin to travel down the hall. They get closer and closer until the figure passes the alcove where I sit. The figure making the footsteps is clothed in black. He is wearing a turtleneck, large sunglasses, and a baseball hat. The figure is carrying a large instrument case, probably a trombone. On instinct

I creep to the edge of the alcove and wait for the figure to turn a corner. I watch him silently. I try to make associations. The figure is not wearing anything to distinguish himself from any other hallway character. It is very clear that this person is trying not to be seen. The figure walks down the stairs, and I stealthily followed. Halfway to the edge of the downstairs hallway, the figure stops. My breath slows. The figure continues, and my breath comes back to me. When the figure reaches the closet at the end of the hallway, I am still crouched behind a corner at the other side of the hallway, not daring to advance out of fear of being seen. The figure has an aura surrounding him and looks menacing. In one motion, he flings the door open and throws the case inside. He then walks into the darkness.

In a sort of hunched run, I make my way to the closet and open the door. I immediately locate the case and pick it up. I then click it open. Inside are all manner of calculators, pencils, pens, books, and protractors. They were obviously pilfered from students. It is quite cold in the closet, but this thought has hardly any room in my brain because a million questions fill my head. Who was that? Whose are these? Why? These thoughts are immediately interrupted by the sound of a twisting key. I whirl around, dropping the case. I clasp the doorknob with both hands, but it is no use. I am locked in.

--To be continued ...



Leo Tolstoy



Charles Dickens



Henry James



Fletcher Wolfe

FEATURES

Seventh-Grade MBA-Harpeth Hall Mixer Bubble Gum, Bubble Gum, and More Bubble Gum

By Henry Rogers

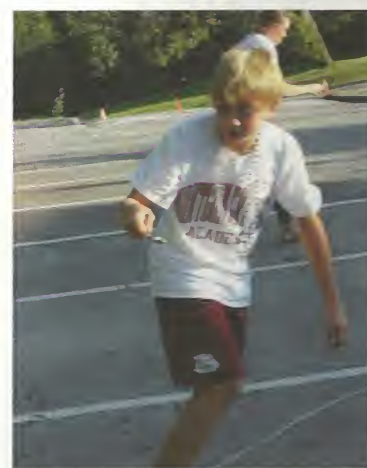
On Saturday evening, September, 26, the seventh-grade MBA boys peeled themselves away from Xbox and college football to have a mixer with the seventh-grade girls from Harpeth Hall. The title of this mixer was "Bubble Gum Olympics." As you may have guessed, the activities at The Bubble Gum Olympics consisted of bubble gum relays, bubble gum scavenger hunts, and a bubble-blowing competition. These activities were easy and fun. Congratulations to Tyler Sherman who won first prize for blowing the biggest bubble with a single piece of bubble gum.

This event was a great way to meet Harpeth Hall girls; however, some would say that the mixer was awkward, considering that we had never met most of the girls that were there. Because it was the first mixer, most people did not feel comfortable talking to the girls. Some might admit that they would rather have been watching football or taking a nap than going to the mixer. A big challenge at the mixer was to walk up to girls that you don't know and talk to them. Here is a list of people who get the "Most Social Award:" Owen Powell, Louis Brown, Aaron Kaplan, and George Hunt. Congratulations guys! Overall, I think that most people enjoyed the mixer and would like to attend the next one. Here are the thoughts of a couple of participants:

I thought that the mixer was a great way to get to know the girls that we will be spending our next six years with them. I had hoped for more free time to be able to talk to the girls, but overall, the mixer was a great experience! -George Hunt

I personally thought that the mixer was really awkward at the beginning. I also thought that none of the games that we were playing were fun. My favorite part of the mixer was at the end when we got to talk to the girls while we were eating. -Wilson Flack

I think it is safe to say that we all agree that at the next mixer we need more socializing and less bubble gum.



Tyler Sherman "blows" the competition away.



The Bubble Gum Relays

FEATURES

McCallie Trip

By Tristan Chari



On Friday, September 25, 2009, the class of 2014 departed for Chattanooga, Tennessee, to watch the Big Red beat McCallie. Each and every one of the eighth graders waited all day for the end of 6th period, so we could board the bus to McCallie. Once our 6th period teachers dismissed us, we changed into casual clothes, got our snacks, and boarded the busses. After every student was on a bus, we were off. There were a few teachers on each bus who tried their best to keep us under control, but everyone was so excited to be out of school and on our way to support the Big Red football team that it was almost impossible for us to keep the noise down.

After the long bus ride, we were

all ready to get out and eat. Luckily, Mr. Thurmond had the food already prepared by the time we got there. Following a great dinner of barbeque, we all headed up to the field and got in our seats. By the time everyone got settled in their seats, the game was just getting started. There were some big hits, carries, and passes, but in the fourth quarter it was a 24-21 game, McCallie, with only four minutes left in the game. It then came down to Andrew Fletcher making a 54-yard field goal. Everyone was cheering him on, but when the kick was up, the crowd fell completely silent. Then, the referees stepped forward and signaled that the kick was good. Everyone on the MBA side was ecstatic, but it was still tied at 24-24. McCallie got their drive but couldn't make anything out of it. Fletcher then went on to make a 36-yard, game-winning field goal. The whole eighth grade ran back to the busses still screaming because of the win. The bus ride back was even more fun than the bus ride there because everyone was so pumped up from the exciting win. We could not have asked for a better trip. Thanks to all of the teachers for making this amazing trip possible.



FEATURES



Girls like guys that look fly, so try to look your best.

Docta Luv

By Mac McDonald

It is often difficult to take that first step to attract a girl. Certain actions will make her like you, and others will have her hoping you would just go away. Every girl is different, so there are no right answers that work all the time. I will try to help you by listing some basics that may be obvious to some, but surprisingly, not to others.

WHAT TO DO: Girls like for you to compliment them. Tell them they are beautiful, smart, athletic, funny (you get the idea), and act sincere about it.

Notice when they have done something different with their appearance like when they have a new haircut, done their nails, or lost twenty pounds. Be comfortable with who you are and act confident. Don't take yourself too seriously. Laugh at yourself if you do something stupid or embarrassing. Girls appreciate it when you comfort them. Try to act concerned when they are down, even if they are upset about something that may seem unimportant to you.

Important: It is essential to have good hygiene. Take showers daily (not weekly), use deodorant, brush your teeth, and take a big swig of mouthwash!

WHAT NOT TO DO: When you first meet a girl, don't use some cheesy pick-up line like: "Do you believe in love at first sight, or should I walk by again?" Girls don't like guys that are full of themselves, so don't talk about yourself too highly. Try a little humility! Don't try too hard to be funny because then you will end up looking like an idiot. Don't move too fast and ask her out right away. Keep her guessing for a little while. Don't act like a thug. Be a gentleman and use the manners your parents taught you. Last, but not least, avoid loud belching and passing gas in front of girls. They don't think it is funny.

I hope these tips are helpful. Feedback is welcome. Let me know what topics you would like to hear about in the future.

---Docta Luv

Congratulations!

New Additions to the MBA Family



Will and Drennon McMurray were married on June 20, 2009.

Katherine Gray "Kate" Bakken was born on May 23, 2009 and has not slept an entire night since!



FEATURES

Homeroom Representatives 2009-2010

EIGHTH GRADE

Mr. Anderson: Sam Stallings, Wesley Jenkins

Mrs. Bakken: Drew Benson, Hayden Palm

Mrs. Christeson: Ben Barton, Chris Burrus, Kalyan Chadavada

Ms. Ellery: David Harrison, Jack Coyle, Stephen Johnson

Mr. McMurray: Sam Weien, Sam Hurd

Mr. Spiegl: John Higham, Justin Shafer

Mr. Woolsey: Russell Carpenter, Wells Hamilton

SEVENTH GRADE

Mr. Barclay: Louis Brown, William Richardson

Mr. Cooper: Kirkland Mawae, Alec Giammalvo

Mr. McGugin: Anthony Swenson

Mrs. Roberts: Henry Rogers, Bill Leftwich, Wren McFadden

Mr. Russell: Diego Martinez

Mr. Sawyer: Tyler Sherman, Ryan Barrick

Mr. Wims: Stephen Sullivan, Owen Powell

Welcome, New Junior School Faculty!



Mark Pettus



Charlie Howell



Hampton Williams

FEATURES

Tennessee TITANS Who's Got to Go?

By Blake Patton

Whom should the Titans bench? With a complete losing season so far, we are no better than the worthless Detroit Lions of the 2008 season. I will begin from the top down. I believe it is time for a new head coach, a new quarterback, and a replacement for Lendale White.

I truly believe that the judgment of Jeff Fisher has expired. Although he has had a successful coaching career with the Titans, he demonstrated poor judgment when he let Albert Haynesworth escape. Show

him the money! The extra revenue from the Super Bowl would have offset his salary. He may be the best player we have ever had. Now, he has an even greater salary and is playing for the Redskins. This situation is utterly disappointing; Jeff could have done much better.

Kerry Collins is a one-season wonder, and one season is way past his wonder. Although an inspiration for many young second-string football players across Tennessee, he simply does not have the spark that a good quarterback needs. Throughout the last couple of games, bad judgment, interceptions, and awful pass completion records speak for themselves. Vince Young is no solution. He is not confident enough either. It is time to allow a new member of the team to start this season. Heck, Tennessee would be better off with Brett Favre!

Finally, Lendale White needs to hit the rocking chair. With a long NFL career, he needs to know when to call it quits. He is losing speed and power. Although a contributor to the team, he

is simply not as good as other premier backs in the NFL, such as the new and quick running back, Chris Johnson.

We must cut Lendale White and Vince Young. This move would open up big money from the salary cap and allow us to get another explosive power like the Eddie George of old.

In conclusion, we need to find a new head coach, draft Sam Bradford or Tim Tebow, and ditch White. In the meantime, at least the ticket prices will fall this season, and the harsh Lions jokes will be replaced by those of the Titans.



Ready for the rocking chair?

Rebuttal: There's Still Hope

By Matt Miccioli

I believe that the Tennessee Titans will have a successful season this year. Some people may say I like a challenge, but I just like to think of myself as a loyal fan. Although the season has begun with a dismal 0-6 start, there is still hope in a good season. Our defense has not been working at all, possibly because of the

loss of Albert Haynesworth. If our pass defense improves, that would force the opposing teams to run the ball more; our run defense has been looking (slightly) better. Because of the team's success last year, I think they can improve. The Titans' offense has not been nearly as shaky as the defense but could still use improvement. Kerry Collins has not looked horrible in the few games we have played, but he needs to throw fewer interceptions. Chris Johnson and Lendale White are still "Smash and Dash" and seem as good as last year. If we can cut down on turnovers, the offense should be fine. The special teams seem to be performing well, but they need to make sure they hit easy field goals. For these reasons, I believe

the Titans will have a successful season, and possibly make the playoffs.



Jeff Fisher in better times

FEATURES

“Fireworks” on the Fourth

By Brandon Carpenter

Over the summer, the seventh-grade BB gun team traveled to Kentucky for the international BB gun championship. The team was composed of Brandon Carpenter, Andrew Dupuis, Henry Ingram, Alec McDowell, and Jordan Pugh. The three days over the July 4th weekend included shooting (of course) and awesome activities.

The shooting days were Saturday and Sunday. The positions included prone, standing, sitting, and kneeling. Another component of the competition was a written test on safety and information about rifles and shotguns. Our team placed 34th

in the nation with a total score of 2095. The top finishers included Andrew Dupuis (438), Brandon Carpenter (437), Jordan Pugh (416), Henry Ingram (408), and Alec McDowell (396). The top individual position scorers were as follows: prone: Brandon Carpenter (97), standing: Andrew Dupuis (83), sitting: Brandon Carpenter (90), kneeling: Andrew Dupuis (82), and the test: Andrew Dupuis and Alec McDowell tied (96). Brandon Carpenter tied for 7th in the nation in the prone position. Jordan Pugh tied for 15th in the nation in prone. Andrew Dupuis tied for 19th in the nation in standing. Brandon Carpenter tied for 15th in the nation in sitting. Along with doing very well in the competition, we had a lot of fun outside the shooting.

The highlight of our extra activities was a boat ride and spelunking. We also took a hike, went to the movies, and swam. On July 4th, we went out to eat and watched the fireworks on a rainy night. After a successful weekend, the 7th grade

BB gun team returned home.

All of us will miss the leadership of Coach Lujan since we have moved up to Varsity and wish the best of luck to this year's seventh grade BB gun team. A special thanks to Mr. Carpenter and Mr. McDowell for coaching us at internationals and everyone else who supported us.



Predators Preview

By Sam Weien

Winter is coming and many people think of basketball, but since Nashville has no pro basketball team, many citizens have turned their winter interest to the NHL, and more specifically the Nashville Predators. Last year, the Predators were 40-34-8. For those of you that don't know what that means, they won 40 games, they lost 34 games, and lost eight games in an overtime or a shootout. But this is a brand new season. The Predators have lost some key players and gained few, but they have great talent in the minor league and have young rising stars. A few key players that Nashville didn't re-sign are defenseman Greg Zanon, center/left-wing Vernon Fiddler, and center Scott Nichol. The Predators did not sign many players during the off-season, but

they hope that Marcel Goc, a free agent center they signed from San Jose, will have a good season and will turn out to be a good young player. Nashville was lucky enough to re-sign many of their players that were free agents. The Predators re-signed center Steve Sullivan, right-wing Joel Ward, and right-wing Ryan Jones. They hope these players were worth re-signing, and they didn't re-sign a bust.

I predict some players will have breakout seasons. Two players to watch are Dan Ellis and Pekka Rinne. Nashville will probably start Dan Ellis at the beginning of the season, but Pekka Rinne proved himself last year as a goalie that could start. It will be an interesting goalie battle throughout the season. Another person to look for is Joel Ward. He is a fast skater who will have many fast break opportunities where he could possibly score. Watch out for Ward as he might make his way to the first line. One person who might have a disappointing season is Jordin Tootoo. He only scored four goals last year. He has had over 100 penalty minutes in the last three seasons. He will probably be a third liner, and the

penalty minutes might hurt his status, even though he is a fan favorite. Nashville will probably not make the playoffs because the Preds are in a tough division. Everybody in Nashville's division made the playoffs last year except Nashville because the Preds do not have the talent and depth to make a playoff run.

I am excited about the Predators' new jerseys this year. They are primarily blue with a black and blue checkerboard across the waist and the middle part of the sleeves. It doesn't remind me of the days of yore with the mustard yellow jerseys, but back to a time before the Preds played and there were only six teams. The jerseys are very monotonous with dark colors taking up most of the jerseys. I wish they still had the mustard jerseys because they were an ID for our team and made our team stand out.

Overall, Nashville will probably not have as good of a season seeing as they have been getting progressively worse since the 06-07 season when they had Paul Kariya and Thomas Vokoun.

ENTERTAINMENT

PC Tips

By Andrew Dupuis

At one time or another, we all reach the point where yelling at our computer isn't enough. Some people, upon reaching this point, kick their poor desktop, hurl their measly netbook, or switch to another language and start the process over. But, God forbid, you ever reach the point where Pig Latin isn't enough, I'm here to help.

First, let's tackle the Apple vs. Microsoft topic. Simply put, Macs are safer and sturdier machines that don't have as many problems. Therefore, most of my tips will be more PC-centered. If anyone does have a problem with a Mac, then don't hesitate to email me.

After a few years, your computer begins to age, just like a car a house, or even Great Aunt What's-

Her-Face whom you see every year at Christmas. The main difference between your computer and weird old Aunty is that your laptop: 1) doesn't need a facial and 2) can be fixed for less than the cost of a psychologist. Here are three quick and easy ways to speed up your computer that can be done cheaply.

1. A computer uses separate parts of its hard-drive to store different things. As your computer gets older, it forgets where things are supposed to go and becomes groggy and unresponsive. When your computer is lost like this, you can fix it in three easy steps. First, go to the *Start Menu-> All Programs-> Accessories-> System Tools-> Disk Defragmenter*. Then click on the part that is formatted as **NTFS**. Go to the bottom of the window, click *Analyze*, and wait. Once it finishes, click on defragment. Wait for it to finish; then you can exit and marvel at your computer's newfound speed.

2. You can buy your computer an extra gigabyte of RAM (Rapid Access Memory). This RAM can be purchased at Best Buy and installed there for a total of \$35. This extra space allows for quicker loading times as well as much faster games and performance.

3. If you're really, really desperate, you can save all your files on a jump drive and turn off your computer. Then, as it turns back on, press either F2 or F12 to access the system restore feature. If you follow the feature's instructions it will fully reset your computer to how it was when you bought it. You will have a new computer, but all of your programs and other files that you didn't save **will** be gone. So don't say I didn't warn you.

Disclaimer: It isn't **MY** fault if your computer explodes, starts walking around swearing, yells at you, befriends your dog and goes to war against Sam Weien, or doesn't work in general. Capeche?



Halo 3: ODST

By Grahame Vines AKA
xXRecon1013Xx on Xbox
Live

ODST is a first-person shooter that re-invents the Halo franchise. You

play as an ODST (Orbital Drop Shock Trooper), who crash lands in the middle of the night in New Mambassa, Africa in the year 2552. ODST takes place in the time period between Halo 2 and 3. The game reinvents the Halo franchise because the player gets a new feeling while playing. The player must think about stealth and health. Seeing that you're not a Spartan (like Master Chief), you need to consider that you can't just hop right into battle and expect to win every single time. You need health packs to recharge your health because it doesn't just recharge in five seconds. The weapons of ODST differ greatly from the rest of the series. The return of the scoped pistol (with silencer) is great fun. The fact that Battle Rifle is gone doesn't really take away from the fun. In ODST, you play as multiple characters throughout the many

missions, serving as sort of flashbacks of the main guy's squad mates with each character telling their story of how each other got to where they were up to the last two missions. You actually play as these squad mates more than as the main character. Firefight is a great replacement for online play. It is very much like Gears of War 2's Horde game mode and Left 4 Dead's survival game mode. Firefight is based on a system of rounds. There are five waves per round, three rounds per set, and unlimited sets. Each wave you play gets significantly more difficult than the previous wave, making Firefight very hard to play, even with a team. ODST is an overall great game with a high replay value, and stunning graphics. I give ODST a 9.3 out of 10. Prepare to drop!

FOOTBALL

Eighth-Grade Football: Total Domination

By Ben Barton

The 8th grade football team had an amazing undefeated season. The team's captains were D.J. Clark, starting fullback and linebacker, and Jordan Roundtree, starting quarterback and corner. In our nine games, we outscored our opponents 270-76, which averages out to 30-8 per game. The team's first game was against Dickson Middle School. We arrived on a Saturday morning and proceeded to crush Dickson 21-0. The team dominated on both offense and defense. On defense, the team did not allow a single first down, and on offense we scored three touchdowns. The next game was against Mt. Juliet Middle School. This was the closest game the team played all year. D.J. Clark and Vinny Gaglione scored our two touchdowns. In the last minutes of the game, Mt. Juliet scored their second touchdown and had the opportunity to tie the game with another two-point conversion. Luckily, Miles Curry made a game-saving hit that caused a fumble. We edged past our second opponent 14-12. Our third game was against the only school MBA had never beaten. Ending this embarrassing



Jashon Robertson

statistic, the team rolled over Withorne Middle School 35-14. Touchdowns were scored by Vinny Gaglione, Jalen Hurd, who scored two of our touchdowns, and Carson Shaw. Our first home game was against Battle Ground Academy, who we annihilated 34-6. Trevonte Easley had two touchdowns, and this game was one of our best defensively. Springfield Middle School was our last away game and was also significant because we soon found out it was their homecoming game. The team responded by destroying their team 28-6. Jalen Hurd received our first defensive touchdown, and the newly healthy Colton Black also scored. One of our sweetest victories was against Ensworth. We removed any question of dominance with a 42-0 halftime score. The mercy clock rule was put into effect, and the final score was 48-14. The 8th grade football team had not beaten Brentwood Academy in over five years. We overcame mistakes and with a fourth quarter comeback beat them 15-8. Touchdowns were scored by Vinny Gaglione and Jalen Hurd.

The next game was our sweetest victory of the year. Red Lion Christian Academy is a team from Delaware with a quarterback named David Sills, the supposed greatest quarterback prospect of his generation. After getting to know them the night before, we whipped Red Lion 47-16 and kept David Sills from getting a single passing yard in the first half. That was the team's best game. The offensive line was as good as ever; the running backs ran right over them, and our receivers scored most of the touchdowns, including Duncan Smith who scored three touchdowns. Our defensive line kept David too scared to think, while our linebackers kept them from having any hope of running the ball, and our secondaries kept David Sills from being David Sills. Our coaches' ingenious new weapons helped us annihilate them. We will never forget the shouts of frustration from the opposing parents and coaches, the best lunch of our lives, and a certain player on their team lying on the ground begging the ref for a late hit call. Our last game was against CPA in the Big Red Bowl. This team was undefeated also, but that didn't keep us

from giving them a goose egg. Colton Black set the mood for the game by blocking the punt, causing a touchdown, and soon touchdowns were scored by Duncan Smith, Jordan Roundtree, and Carson Shaw. We would like to thank coaches McMurray, Pettus, Jenkins, Simpson, Norton,

McMahan, and Frazer for our perfect season.



Jalen Hurd



Vinnie Gaglione



Duncan Smith

Photos Courtesy of Bill Gaglione

FOOTBALL

Seventh-Grade Football

By William Richardson

The 7th grade football team had an impressive season, finishing 4-4. Their victories came against Coopertown Middle School (6-0), Brentwood Middle School (28-8), Brentwood Academy (34-6), and CPA (7th) (18-6). We lost to David Lipscomb (14-26), St. Henry (0-14), Harding Academy (21-0), and CPA (6th) (20-6). MBA's first game against Coopertown was a very even battle until the running back scored the game-winning touchdown. St. Henry was a good opponent and beat MBA up and down the field. When the Big Red traveled to Brentwood Middle School, they showed them what MBA football is about. In the first half alone, MBA put 28 points on the board. The Big Red then went on to win the game. When David Lipscomb came to MBA, they were met by a team that put up a fight, but came up short. The Big Red showed determination during that game, but Lipscomb pulled away to win. At Harding, the Big Red played very well, considering our

opponent was a 7th and 8th grade team. MBA showed a lot of determination during that game, especially in the 4th quarter, but came up short of the "W."

Finally, it came time for a rivalry game - MBA vs. BA. The Big Red let BA know what they were in for on the first play of the game and throughout the remainder of the game. MBA won 34-6 in a huge victory against the Eagles. With a 14-6 lead at halftime, MBA took the field in the 2nd half and scored 20 unanswered points! Then the Big Red met CPA in the Big Red Bowl, the final game of the season. The Big Red had two games to play that day. They lost their first game 20-6. Then, in the second game, they pulled off a huge victory to cap off the season! This was a great conclusion to a great season. Thanks to Coach Ardisson (head coach), Coach Piggee (defensive backs and wide receivers coach/defensive coordinator), Coach Bernatavitz (backs and quarterbacks coach/offensive coordinator), Coach Smith (offensive and defensive line coach), Coach Anderson (linebacker coach/assistant defensive coach), Coach Stack, and Coach Easter.



Everyone congratulates Louis Brown after his interception



Samuel Gaston



Daniel Maynard



T.J. Jefferson



MC Poe hands off to William Richardson



Ryan Caldwell

*Photos Courtesy of
Faye Maynard*

GOLF

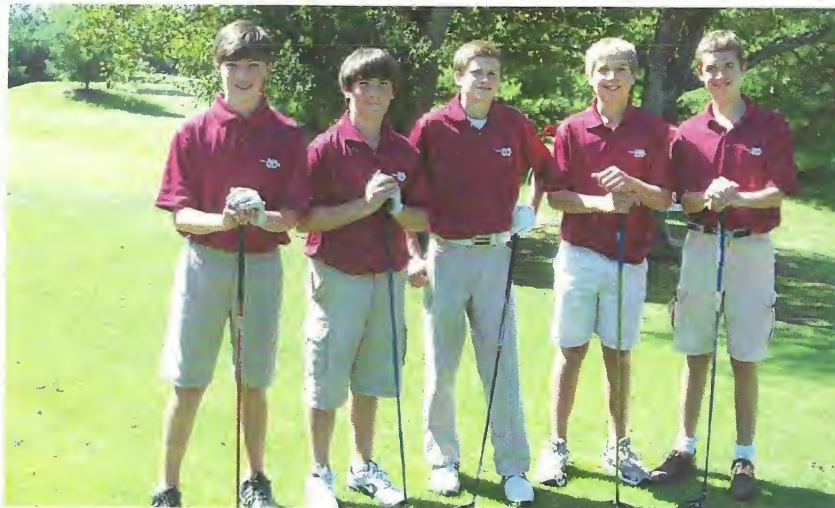
Microbe Linksters Dominate HVAC Again!

By Kip Worthington

The MBA microbe varsity golf team went undefeated this year. The team was made up the eighth graders Kip Worthington, Chase Mathews, Cal Fischer, Luke Cochran, Sam Pinsly, Chippy Evans, Coleman Sorenson, and Charlie Hawkins. The only seventh graders on the team were Chris Byrne and Bill Leftwich. The team played teams throughout the HVAC, including Ensworth, FRA, Harding Academy, CPA, and Brentwood Academy. The golf team dominated every single one of these teams. Chase Mathews, the team's power hitter, had a great season, only shooting in the 40's once. Cal Fischer had a record low round of the year, 30- 3 under par! The team won

the Montgomery Bell Invitational at McCabe, barely slipping by Harding. On August 29, the HVAC championship at Spencer Creek had finally come around. Fifteen minutes before leaving, Chase Mathews came down with a combination of the Swine Flu and pneumonia. Leaving the loss behind them, the team comprising of Kipper Worthington, Cal Fischer, Coleman Sorenson, Chris Byrne, and Chip Evans won the tournament. Kipper Worthington and Cal Fisher shot 36 (3

over par), and both went into a 6-man playoff. Due to bad drives off the tee, the two both bogeyed the playoff hole and tied for second. Finally, on October 8th, the golf team was challenged by the microbe junior varsity team to a grudge match at McCabe. The varsity dominated the JV by a 15-stroke differential. Due to the coaching of Coach Gabe Carro, the golf team had a fun and successful season.



CROSS COUNTRY

Muddy Milers

By Sam Hurd

The MBA Cross Country season started off strong with a run at the rather damp USN river campus. The MBA team came in second overall at that race with Diamond Famous coming in first. The next three races were at a much drier Vaughns Creek.

Our second to last meet was exciting. We arrived at Ensworth High School and had to stay inside the buses to avoid getting wet. We warmed up and watched the girls race before we started. When we lined up at the starting line, we knew it would be muddy because we saw the girls splash through the mud piles and return with dirty uniforms. The one and a half mile race had many mud piles and small pools of water. Everyone was wet and muddy after the race, and we came in second.

The week of the Championship meet we had a practice designed for us to get dirty. We would roll down a hill, slide in mud, and then sprint back up to start again. While this practice seemed like just a time to mess around, it was not. This workout was preparing us for the muddy conditions we would encounter at the meet.

That Friday, the day of the

Championship meet, we loaded up the buses and rode over to the Vaughns Creek course. Everyone was nervous and excited. When we got there, we warmed up and stretched while waiting to see what other teams showed up for the race. As our coach was finishing his pre-race pep talk, the announcer told the racers to make their way to the starting line. At the starting line, right before the race, we stacked it up and had one last "MBA" cheer. The starter gave us a two command start and fired the gun. The race was off. At first everyone sprinted out to try and avoid getting stuck behind people. The runners quickly thinned out, so it was not that difficult to maneuver between runners. The dirt running path had turned into a sort of hard mud and the weather was cool, so we knew it was a great opportunity to set a personal record. Just after the mile marker there was some mud we had to run through so mud was flying through the air as runners tried to run as hard as they could. As we rounded the last turn we entered the final stretch, which had spectators lining both sides of the path. Everyone sprinted that stretch as fast as they could in hopes to get the best time possible. We could see the time ticking on the clock at the finish time as we approached. Fifty feet, forty, thirty (almost there), twenty, ten and then



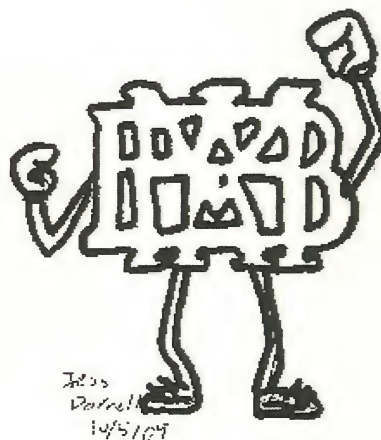
most runners had to slow down to avoid colliding into other runners "waiting their turn" to finish. Yes, the chute was a little slow, so it was kind of difficult to get to that line representing the finish of the race. The officials let you use the time that you were at when you reached the chute so the line of people did not cost you.

After the race, the team was proud of themselves. They had all tried their hardest and did well. Our top fifteen finishers were (with their time in parentheses), John Higham (8:36), Diamond Famous (8:39), German Martinez (8:46), Eric Anderson (8:56), Anthony Swenson (9:02), Ferriss Bailey (9:04), David Smith (9:21), Trice McCullers (9:25), Bradley Bennett (9:38), Wes Duke (9:43), Sam Hurd (9:47), Cole Jones (9:46), William Snow (9:52), William C. Johnson (9:49), Luke Wooten (9:57), Hunter Wims (9:57). MBA came in second overall in that race, but we had many runners run a personal record. Overall, I think the cross country team had a great season this year led by the coaches, Mr. Russell, Dr. Bailey, Mr. Ferrell, and Ms. Vaughan.



THE BACK PAGE

FIGHT SWINE FLU!



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